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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR, XJ, XF
SUBJECT: SOVIET ARTICLE ON SITUATION IN RED SEA REGION

SUMMARY: IZVESTIYA ARTICLE DESCRIBED CAMPAIGN BY IMPERIALISTS AND THEIR AGENTS (I.E., SAUDI ARABIA) TO ATTACK ETHIOPIA AND ENTICE SOMALIA AND PDRY INTO CONSERVATIVE CAMP. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO DRAW TO ATTENTION OF DEPT. APRIL 15 IZVESTIYA ARTICLE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN RED SEA REGION BY SNEIOR POLITICAL COLUMNIST V. KUDRYAVTSEV. ARTICLE REPRESENTS FIRST AUTHORITATIVE SOVIET MEDIA COMMENT ON FAST MOVING RED SEA SITUATION IN RECENT WEEKS. ASSUME DEPT. HAS FBIS TEXT. MAIN POINTS ARE:

--WHILE THERE IS A NATURAL ARAB INTEREST IN RED SEA MATTERS, THE IMPERIALISTS (UNABLE TO INTERFERE

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DIRECTLY DUE TO DETENTE) USE THEIR AGENTS TO ATTACK ETHIOPIA BY FANNING ARAB NATIONALISM AND "SEPARATIST TENDENCIES." IN THIS REGARD USE OF TERM "ARAB SEA" VICE "RED SEA" IS INDICATIVE. ETHIOPIA, ALTHOUGH NOT AN ARAB COUNTRY, POSSESSES A 625 MILE RED SEA COASTLINE AND THIS STRIP IS ITS ONLY OUTLET TO THE SEA. CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO WEAKEN ANTI-

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IMPERIALIST UNITY OF ARAB STATES BY DETRACTING THEIR ATTENTION FROM PRIMARY TASK - ELIMINATION OF CONSEQUENCES OF ISRAELI AGRESSION;

--ETHIOPIAN - CUBAN COMMUNIQUE WAS CORRECT WHEN IT CALLED FOR NECESSITY OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES TO COORDINATE THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE COMMON FOE - IMPERIALISM;

--ACTIVE ROLE OF SAUDI ARABIA IS IMPORTANT. FRENCH PAPER "AURORE" HAS NOTED THAT RIYADH IS TRYING TO ENTICE SOMALIA AND PDRY INTO THE CONSERVATIVE CAMP;

-- THE EGYPTIAN PAPER AL-AHRAM HAS DESCRIBED THE GOAL OF CREATING A RED SEA MILITARY BLOCK SIMILAR TO NATO, BUT (SAYS KUDRYAVTSEV) SUCH AN ENTITY WOULD NOT BE IN EGYPT'S OWN INTERESTS SINCE IT WOULD THREATEN EGYPT'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE SUEZ CANAL.

2. COMMENT: KUDRYAVTSEV, AN AUTHORITATIVE POLITICAL COLUMNIST (HE IS ALSO A DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND AFRICA, AND MEMBER OF THE SUPREME SOVIET), HAS WRITTEN THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT SOVIET COMMENT ON RED SEA DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF SUDANESE-SAUDI EFFORTS TO WEAN THE SOMALIS AWAY FROM THE SOVIETS. OTHER RECENT SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BRIEFLY REPORTED CASTRO'S VISIT TO THE REGION, PODGORNY'S STOP IN MOGADISCIO, THE ETHIOPIAN FON OFF STATEMENT ON INTER-
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FERENCE OF "REACTIONARY"ARAB STATES IN ETHIOPIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS (PRAVDA APRIL 27), AND ETHIOPIAN REACTION TO THREAT OF ALLEGED AGGRESSION FROM SUDAN (APRIL 13-14 CENTRAL PRESS). BUT KUDRYAVTSEV'S ARTICLE IS FIRST TO PUT MATTERS INTO BROAD PERSPECTIVE - PREDICTABLY FROM AN ANTI-IMPERIALIST VIEWPOINT. HE DOES NOT, HOWEVER, PROVIDE ANY HINT OF FUTURE SOVIET ACTION TO COUNTER THE CAMPAIGN WHICH HE HAS DESCRIBED.
TOON

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# Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, XJ, XF, (KUDRYAVTSEV, V)
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